DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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American Embassy
Paris
May 22, 1953

Dear Herbert:

It is only upon my return from a recent trip around the European circuit that I have had an opportunity to tell you with what mixed emotions I heard of your retirement as editor of the Post.

On the one hand, I feel as if a familiar and respected landmark had suddenly been obliterated -- on the other hand, I am personally delighted that you will be to some extent relieved from the almost unbelievable strain on your health and will be more free to direct your manifold interests into unimpeded channels. None of the countless testimonials to you have in my opinion done full justice, glowing though they are, to the courage and integrity with which you have advanced your views on questions of national and international interest both publicly and privately.

As you know, I have sometimes completely disagreed with you on personalities and policies, but it has been one of the great satisfactions of my friendship with you to realize that one can argue seriously over points of difference without affecting one's personal relationship and feeling of affection and respect for the opponent. It may well be in retrospect that I have always been wrong, even on the few matters regarding which we have differed, but just in order to preserve a remnant of dialectic pride, let me hope that on one or two I may have been correct.

We think often of Joey and yourself and wish we could see you. I am coming home next week in connection with Monnet's trip, but will probably only be in Washington for two days. In any event, I will call you up on a chance of finding you there and at least talking to you on the telephone.

I wish I could say that all goes well here but I cannot go quite that far. With perseverance and wisdom, I feel convinced we can all win through on the integration projects.

Vangie is not coming back with me since it will be such a short trip.

I hope to see you soon and, meanwhile, we both send love.

Ever yours,

David Bruce

Mr. Herbert Elliston,
The Washington Post,
Washington, D. C.

Elliston, Herbert

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